

PROGRESS REPORT III

Record of nest of SBV

December 7, 2021



SBV nest next to Prithivi highway, Kotre, Gachepani, Tanahu, Nepal

Story

After Second Rufford Small Grant for conservation, me and my team from Pokhara Bird Society were looking forward to record some nest of vultures in and around Pokhara Valley.

On December 3rd Friday morning 11 am, I got a call from Manshanta. I was excited to hear from my friend Manshanta Ghimire (President of Pokhara Bird Society) that he saw a nest of vulture on the way to Kathmandu. He also text me the location and it was near the main highway.

Since my whole week schedule was too busy, I cancelled everything and plan to visit that place next morning (Saturday). I was wondering about the weather which was too cold and raining on the day I got the call from Ghimire.

I planned to take one of my students from my University. So I called Aman Sunar Bachelor Final year student who was interested in vulture.

Saturday morning Aman came to my house around 8 am and we left on Scooter after half an hour for observing the nest of SBV. The location of nest was in next district around 25 km East of Pokhara. On the way we saw some vultures and we also recorded their location. Around 11 am we reach there. I was so surprised to see SBV nest just next to highway on Simal tree (Bombax sps.). We took some pictures and had some informal questionnaire with local people around. We came to know that last year the SBV couple had successful breeding and this is their second attempt on the same tree but on different branch.



Slender- billed Vulture couple collecting twigs for making nest

We were more excited when we saw large number of vultures next to the nesting site across the highway. We went there and we recorded 160 individuals of 7 species of vultures. Himalayan Vulture, White-rumped vulture, Slender-billed vulture, Red-headed vulture, Egyptian vulture, Eurasian griffon and Cinereous vultures were recorded in that place. That place was recently established as Cow rescue center and old and disable cattle were collected and rare until their natural death. Dead cattle and their carcass were food for vultures. So there was good number of vultures.



Vultures feeding carcass in Cow-shed center, Shuklagandaki Municipality, Ward number 9, Tanahu, Nepal



Cow rescue center



SBV and Himalayan vulture



Vultures flying, soaring and roosting